Programmes under new Agriculture Policy for NE

3800. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the new programmes to be taken up under the new Agricultural Policy for the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether any programme is proposed to be taken up for exporting horticulture products to foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not initiating new programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The recently announced National Agriculture Policy docs not specify new programmes for the North-Eastem States, or for other regions. However, a new scheme on "Technology Mission for the Integrated Development fo Horticulture in the North-East States including Sikkim" has been approved for implementation during the year 2001-02. This Technology Mission, which is to be launched shortly, will have four Mini-Missions *viz*. (i) Mini-Mission-I for Research; (ii) Mini-Mission-II for Production and Productivity; (iii) Mini-Mission-III for Post-Harvest Management, Marketing and Export; and (iv) Mini-Mission IV for Processing.

Foreign experts for rescue operations In Gujarat

3801. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign experts were called for rescue operations for earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a lot of time of foreign experts was wasted as they first reached Delhi, then Ahmedabad and thereafter at Bhuj, due to lack of direction from Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Rescue teams from some countries assisted the Government of Gujarat in the rescue and relief operations in the wake of earthquake.

(b) and (c) No such report has been received from the State Government.

Dredging operations at Bhavanapadu

3802. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have approached the Union Government to waive the payment of a sum of Rs. 60.17 lakh, towards dredging operations at Bhavanapadu fishing harbour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for dredging upto 27 days, there was no improvement in depths;

(c) if so, whether Union Government have considered such operations for 27 days as "Trial Dredging"; and

(d) whether the payment is waived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir, The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Ministry to exempt the payment of hire charges for 27 days and to issue the instructions to Dredging Corporation of India to not insist for payment of hire charges as the harbour could not be operative after dredging for a period of 27 days.

(b) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh entered into an agreement with the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) for deployment of dredger at Bhavanapadu fishing harbour. It was reported by the DCI that the dredging work was carried out as per the directions of the representative of the Government of Andhra Pradesh on board and the officials of the State Government have witnessed the quantum of dredged material and have signed the report to that effect. Therefore, the